

Study Guide: The Woman and the Dragon

Text: Revelation 12:1–17

Theme: The victory of Christ over Satan and God's faithfulness to His people in the midst of spiritual warfare.

Sermon Summary

In a vivid and symbolic chapter, Revelation 12 presents a cosmic conflict involving a woman, a dragon, and a male child. The woman, symbolizing Israel, is described as radiant and crowned with twelve stars—imagery echoing Joseph's dream in Genesis 37. She gives birth to a male child, the Messiah, whom Satan (the dragon) seeks to destroy.

The dragon—clearly identified as Satan—is portrayed as a powerful and bloodthirsty enemy. His attempt to devour the Messiah fails as Jesus is caught up to heaven. Satan then turns his rage on the woman and her offspring, signaling both his hostility toward Israel and his continuing war against believers.

The chapter also reveals a heavenly war led by Michael the archangel, resulting in Satan being cast out of heaven to the earth. Though furious, Satan's power is limited. Believers conquer him not by strength but by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and unwavering faith—even in the face of death.

Despite intense opposition and persecution, God provides refuge and protection. The passage ends with the dragon poised for further conflict, but the tone remains hopeful: **Satan is real, but he is destined to lose.**

Key Scriptures

- *“And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”* – Revelation 12:1
 - *“She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...”* – Revelation 12:5
 - *“Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God... have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down...”* – Revelation 12:10
 - *“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”* – Revelation 12:11
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Main Characters & Symbols

Symbol	Interpretation
Woman	Israel (cf. Genesis 37:9)

Male Child	Jesus the Messiah
Dragon	Satan (vv. 3, 9)
Wilderness	A place of divine protection
Michael	Archangel who protects Israel (Daniel 12:1)

Discussion Questions

1. **Why is it important that John describes the vision as a “sign”? What does this tell us about how to interpret the chapter?**
 2. **How does Genesis 37 help us identify the woman in Revelation 12? Why is this Old Testament connection significant?**
 3. **How do you see Satan trying to “devour” Jesus during His earthly ministry? What does this reveal about the dragon’s tactics?**
 4. **Verse 11 says believers “conquer” Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. What does that mean in practical terms for your life today?**
 5. **The wilderness becomes a place of God’s nourishment and protection. Can you think of times in Scripture—or your own life—where isolation became a place of provision?**
 6. **In what ways does this passage encourage us not to be naive, but also not to be afraid in the face of spiritual warfare?**
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Application Points

- **Trust in Christ’s Victory:** Our battle is real, but the outcome is secure. Satan may accuse, deceive, and attack, but his defeat was sealed at the cross.
- **Know the Enemy:** Satan is a deceiver and accuser. Recognize his tactics so you are not caught unaware (Ephesians 6:11).
- **Stand Firm in the Gospel:** Our strength is not in our works, but in the blood of Jesus and the power of our testimony. Don’t be silent about your faith.
- **God Provides in the Wilderness:** When life feels desolate or dangerous, remember that God often uses the wilderness to protect and provide.
- **Be Ready for Battle, But Live with Hope:** Spiritual warfare is intense, but temporary. Satan’s time is short, and God’s promises endure forever.

Going Deeper

- **Cross-References:**

- Genesis 3:15 – The first prophecy of the Messiah's victory over Satan.
- Genesis 37:9 – Joseph's dream connecting Israel with sun, moon, and stars.
- Daniel 12:1 – Michael's role in protecting Israel.
- Matthew 2:13–18 – Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus.
- Luke 10:18 – Jesus saw Satan fall like lightning.
- Romans 8:33–34 – Christ intercedes for us against every accusation.

- **Word Study:**

- *Satan* – Hebrew for "adversary."
- *Diabolos* – Greek for "slanderer" or "accuser."
- *Overcome/conquered* (nikaō, v. 11) – To prevail, to gain victory.

Memory Verse

"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

— Revelation 12:11 (ESV)